

MEYNER QUESTIONED ON THE U-2 FLIGHT

Richard Haffner, New York Forum, at 4:30 P.M. over WCBs-TV
(N.Y.)

HOST: Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey

PANEL: All members of the Association of the Bar of
the city of New York:

Mr. William Stackpole

Mr. Arthur B. Fredston

Mr. Laurence C. McQuade

FREDSTON: "Governor, on the national scene, Mr. Stevenson made big black headlines when he spoke in Chicago on Thursday, and disagreeing with Senator Johnson thoroughly attacked the administration for the handling of the summit conference and the U-2. He said 'We cannot sweep this whole sorry mess under the rug in the name of national unity.'

"Do you agree with Mr. Stevenson's remark that this is a time to criticize rather than to unite?"

MEYNER: "I read Mr. Stevenson's speech word for word, as it was published, and I can't come to the conclusion you've come to that he disagreed violently with Senator Johnson. I do agree that you can't stand up and say let's argue with the president on this issue, that we want to back the president. I agree with him, too, that you can't sweep it under the rug. I think what we've got to do as citizens of this great country of ours is sit down and examine into what we've done and how we've come to the spot we are in and where we're going. And I think maybe we will conclude that all of the hopes we had for summit conferences are a bit unfounded."

FREDSTON: "Well, he said the administration was clumsy, that it has acutely embarrassed our allies, endangered our bases, helped to make negotiations impossible. This is the strongest foreign policy attack, I think, in quite some time, and seems to make foreign affairs a major issue in the next election. Do you think that will be?"

MEYNER: "Well, I said the Monday pre -- just one week before the summit conference that I felt, with respect to the U-2 plane incident, that we had lied -- or made a deliberate mis-statement of fact. I said, too, that we had openly admitted that we had encroached upon the territorial integrity of another nation, that we had certainly prepared ourselves to have little or no influence in a summit meeting."

FREDSTON: "Do you oppose the U-2 flights?"